



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **River Metals Recycling Earns SHARP Status for Excellence in Safety and Health**

*Largest scrap recycler in Kentucky becomes first recycling facility in the Commonwealth  
to achieve honor*

**NEWPORT, Ky. (Dec. 17, 2013)** – The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s Commissioner of Workplace Standards Anthony Russell today presented River Metals Recycling LLC (RMR) in Newport a plaque and a flag signifying the company’s certification under the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). The Newport facility is the first recycling operation in Kentucky to earn SHARP status.

Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Larry Roberts applauded the company’s achievement.

“This represents a tremendous amount of work, and it shows River Metals Recycling’s tireless dedication to safety,” said Secretary Roberts. “The SHARP status means RMR has taken extraordinary measures to exceed the requirements of safety standards. This is even more impressive when you consider this is the first recycling facility to achieve SHARP status in Kentucky.”

Formed in 1998, RMR is the largest scrap recycler in Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati area, and employs more than 300. Including the Newport facility, which has approximately 70 employees, the company has nine locations in Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The Newport recycling center buys ferrous scrap and common household nonferrous scrap metal, including items such as aluminum, stainless steel, copper and brass products.

“River Metals Recycling employees’ commitment to safety has never been stronger, and this award reflects the entire team’s goal of zero accidents,” said Arvil Pennington, plant manager. “Safety is our number one focus, and providing a safe work environment is our primary responsibility.”

To qualify for SHARP designation, an employer must undergo a comprehensive evaluation and series of audits, correct any identified hazards, demonstrate that effective safety and health programs are in place, and maintain injury rates below the national average for its industry for the last three years.

RMR has gone more than seven years without a lost-time accident. The national average for the metals recycling industry is approximately 3.5 total injuries and illnesses that result in days away from work, restricted activity or transferred to another job, per 100 full-time employees for one year.

The U.S. Department of Labor designed SHARP to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health among employers and create a proactive partnership with its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Although companies must meet federal standards for the program, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the award, as Kentucky has operated its own federally-approved Occupational Safety and Health (KY OSH) program for more than 40 years.

Companies must have a safety and health program that involves all employees in finding and correcting existing or possible future hazards as they develop. SHARP’s certification is good for two years, and then the company is eligible for renewal. A company is exempted from scheduled KY OSH compliance inspections during the certification period, but partners with KY OSH continue striving to improve their safety program.

For the benefits of SHARP, click [here](#).

For more on the KY OSH program, click [here](#).

For details on RMR, visit [www.rmrecycling.com](http://www.rmrecycling.com).

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*The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth’s more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. For more information, visit [www.labor.ky.gov/](http://www.labor.ky.gov/).*

